Improvement of facilities at Vaishno Devi Shrine

1755. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up major restoration and developmental projects in Jammu and Kashmir to promote tourism;

(b) whether religious Shrines are also included in the restoration projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any funds have been earmarked for improvement facilities in and around Vaishno Devi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) It has been decided to take up the following works during the year 2003-04:

1. Restoration/conservation/development of Kheer Bhawani Shrine at Tulmula, Ganderbal and its environment.
2. Restoration/conservation/development of Shrine Complex at Baba-Rishi Sahib, Tangmarg and its environment.
3. Upgradation of Amarnath Ji Yatra and provision of Shelter units etc.
4. Improvement of tourism circuit—Vaishno Devi-Patnitop-Srinagar-Gulmarg.
5. Improvement of tourism facilities in and around Aishmuquam Shrine, Kashmir.

Development of tourism in Rajasthan

†1756. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas selected by Government for development of tourism in Rajasthan during the current year; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of outline formulated by Government for the development of such areas?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Ajmer Sharif and Pushkar in Rajasthan have been identified for development during the current financial year.

(b) The tentative development plan includes provision of suitable accommodation and public coveniences at Ajmer Sharif and development and protection of Pushkar Lake and Ghats under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

Financial Assistance for Tourist Centres in A.P.

1757. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has bagged 6 out of the 14 National Tourism Awards for the previous year;

(b) the details of the activities for which these awards have been given;

(c) whether the State of Andhra Pradesh has demanded certain additional help to improve tourist centres in the State; and

(d) if so, Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as follows:

(i) Best Poster on Tourism—Tholu Bommalata.

(ii) Best Tourism Performing State.

(iii) Best Maintained Tourism Friendly Monument—Golconda Fort.

(iv) Most Innovative & Unique Tourism Project—Belum Caves.

(v) Most Innovative Use of Information Technology.

(vi) Best Tourism Friendly City—Hyderabad.

(c) and (d) Central Financial Assistance is provided on the basis of the merits of the project, *interse* priority and availability of funds.